

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A mutant of a recombinant microorganism selected from the group consisting of *Sinorhizobium meliloti* IFO 14782/pVK601, *Sinorhizobium meliloti* PY-C341-K1, and *Sinorhizobium meliloti* PY-EGC1 capable of producing vitamin B₆ having a plasmid expressing a recombinant pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase polypeptide, said plasmid being selected from the group consisting of pVK100, pRK290, pLAFR1 ~~pLAFR1~~, and RSF1010 whereby the recombinant microorganism has acquired a phenotypic property of histidine requirement or glycine resistance, or a combination of the phenotypic properties thereof.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The mutant of a recombinant microorganism according to claim 1, wherein a polynucleotide sequence encoding said pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase polypeptide is cloned into plasmid pVK100.

Claim 4. (Cancelled).

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The mutant of a recombinant microorganism according to claim 1 which is *Sinorhizobium meliloti* PY-EGC1.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) A process for producing vitamin B₆ which comprises cultivating the mutant according to claim 1 in a cultivation medium at a pH value of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature of 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 15 days under aerobic conditions, isolating vitamin B₆ from the cultivation medium.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 6, wherein the mutant is *Sinorhizobium meliloti* PY-EGC1.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The mutant of a recombinant microorganism according to claim 3, wherein a recombinant plasmid comprising the pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase gene is pVK601.